## REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are pending in the application.

Fig. 27 of the drawing has been amended to avoid the Examiner's objectives to the disclosure.

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 4 and 8 are objected to, but that each would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of its associated base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 4 and 8 have been rewritten in independent form. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 4 and 8 are accordingly in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-3, 5-7 and 9 are rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by Baydav (U.S. Patent No. 5, 784, 377). Independent claim 1 has been amended to more clearly define the invention.

Claim 1 as amended includes the limitations that, "a path-information checking unit for forming a judgment as to whether a plurality of paths identified by the same value of said group identifier assigned to a path information group comprising pieces of path information describing said paths on the basis of said path information and said time-slot-allocation are defined correctly between terminals", and "said path information and time-slot-allocation information are defined separately".

The limitations of claim 1 as amended provide that a plurality of paths are defined between terminals separately. Further, a plurality of paths are defined on the basis of path information and time-slot-allocation information between terminals and path information and time-slot-allocation information are still defined separately. Therefore a plurality of paths may be

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defined incorrectly between terminals. The intensive management apparatus as claimed in claim 1 as amended forms a judgment as to whether a plurality of paths are defined correctly or incorrectly between terminals. The antecedent basis for the amendment can be found, for example on page 12, line 24 to page 13, line 17.

Baydar discloses that an OC-3 card 50 performs section, line, and path termination functions in col. 14 lines 45-57, col. 17 lines 15-27, and col. 18 lines 1-29. OC-3 card 50 performs the termination functions during an operation of a transmission system. OC-3 card 50 doesn't create path information of amended claim 1. Thus Baydar doesn't disclose the path information-creating unit of claim 1 as amended.

It should be noted that Baydar discloses that time slot assignment of each channel is done by a time slot assigner 147, and time slot assigner 147 allocates time slots with each termination, including line and path (see col. 31 lines 46-67 and col. 32 line 1-34) The time slot assigner 147 allocates time slots with each termination during an operation of a transmission system, but doesn't create time-slot allocation information for allocating time slot with a path. Therefore, the time slot assigner 147 substantially differs from the time-slot-allocating unit of amended claim 1, and Baydar fails to suggest the time-slot-allocating unit of amended claim 1.

In addition, Baydar fails to disclose or suggest that "path information and time-slot-allocation information are defined separately".

Baydar teaches that OC-3 card 50 controls the line monitoring for errors and determines if the errors are considered significant (col. 18 lines 1-27). The errors are Loss of Parity (LOP), line far-end receive failure (FERF), BIP-8 errors, and far-end-block error (FEBE). These errors are detected during the operation of the transmission system, and are not defined with respect to a plurality of paths between terminals.

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The path-information-checking unit of amended claim 1 forms a judgment as to whether a plurality of paths are defined correctly between terminals. The judgment is formed before the transmission system operates and path information and time-slot allocation information regarding plurality of paths are modified where errors is detected, because if a plurality of paths are defined incorrectly between terminals, communication between the terminals fails. Baydar's judgment for detecting errors is formed during the operation of the transmission system. The judgment disclosed by Baydar substantially differs from a judgment by the path-information-checking unit of amended claim 1.

It should be further emphasized that Baydar doesn't disclose the limitations of claim 1 providing " a path-information-checking-unit for forming a judgment as to whether a plurality of paths identified by the same value of said group identifier assigned to a path-information group comprising pieces of path information describing said paths on the basis of said path information and said time-slot-allocation information are defined correctly between terminals".

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that amended claim 1 is not anticipated by Baydar, and is on condition for allowance. As claims 2, 3, 5 – 7 and 9 each depend from allowable claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2, 3, 5 – 7 and 9 are allowable for at least this reason.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks it is respectfully submitted that all claims 1-9 are in allowable condition. It is believed that this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

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Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,

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